

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, MARR, NATO, PFOR, IC NO, UK

SUBJ: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DIPUTE: EXPANDED NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL

REFS: (A)STATE 042881, (B) OSLO 0907, (C) NATO 964

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDELLUND ON MORNING FEB 23 TO OUTLINE OUR VIEWS ON UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE ALONG LINES INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED STATE 042881. HE WAS PLEASED WITH POSITIVE REACTION WE TOOK TOWARD NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL GENERALLY, AND HE APPRECIATED AND AGREED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SUGGESTIONS OUTLINED IN PARA TWO OF REFTEL A. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO SET TIME DEADLINE TO STIMULATE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. FRYDENLUND SAID HE REGRETTED THAT US COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT COMPENSATION"CONSORTIUM", IMPLYING THAT HE DID NOT MEAN TO EXCLUDE THE US FROM THE PORTION OF THE PROPOSAL. ON THIS SCORE I REITERATED AGAIN OUR BASIC DIFFICULTY WITH US FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCHEME DRAWING ON REFTEL A, PARA FIVE. FRYDENLUND UNDERSTOOD THIS BUT NONETHELESS HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT EVEN THOUGH COSTS WERE MANAGEABLE, NORWAY COULD NOT ALONE INFLUENCE THE PARTIES TO GET TOGETHER TO NEGOTIATE; CONSEQUENTLY
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THE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES

IN A "CONSORTIUM" WAS NECESSARY. US SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION, HE THOUGHT, IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN BRINGING OTHER COUNTRIES TO TAKE PART. HE INDICATED THAT THE FRG AND CANADA HAVE ASKED NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL.

3. FRYDENLUND SAID THAT HE AND FONMIN POLITICAL DIRECTOR KJELD VIBE ARE LEAVING FOR BRUSSELS THIS AFTERNOON WHERE THEY PLAN TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH NATO SECGEN LUNS AT 5:00P.M. THEY WILL RETURN TO OSLO TONIGHT. ONE OF THE ISSUES HE WISHED TO EXPLORE WITH LUNS IS HOW TO FEEL THE UK OUT ON THE PROPOSAL.

4. FRYDENLUND SAID NORWAY'S MAIN INTEREST WAS IN PROMOTING RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS SO AS TO PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION OF SITUATION OR ESCALATION OF THE CONFLICT. HE EMPHASIZED HE WAS NOT WEDDED TO ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL, BUT HE RECOGNIZES THAT NORWEGIANS ARE ONE OF THE FEW PARTIES WHO CAN TALK WITH ICELANDERS ON SUBJECT AT THIS STAGE.

5. HE AND PRIME MINISTER NORDLI HAVE ARRANGED SPECIAL MEETING WITH ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON AND FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON IN COPENHAGEN DURING NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING FEB 27 AND AT THAT TIME NORWEGIANS WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS SOME CONCRETE STEPS TO DE-ESCALATE CRISIS. IF REACTION TO NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL LOOKS PROMISING AND HAS SOME DEGREE OF SUPPORT HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IT WITH HALLGRIMSSON AND AGUSTSSON. BUT FRYDENLUND STRESSED THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER SOUND PROPOSAL WITH THE ICELANDERS. FRYDENLUND INDICATED HE BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE BE SOME CLEAR, PRIOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UK AND ICELAND THAT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN THE SCHEME AND CONCUR ULTIMATELY ON THE GENERAL TERMS OF AN AGREEMENT BEFORE THEY BE URGED TO SIT DOWN TO DISCUSS IT FORMALLY.

6. I PLAN TO FOLLOW-UP WITH FRYDENLUND ON HIS BRUSSELS TALKS WHEN HE RETURNS TO OSLO TONIGHT AND
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WOULD URGE THAT USNATO TAKE EARLY OCCASION TO GET LUNS' REACTION AFTER HIS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER.
BYRNE

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